(b) and (c) The proposal is to hand over Marine Aquarium facilities to the State Government of Kerala and the research programmes at Vizhinjam Centre of CMFRI in Kerala to be shifted to the Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam, Tamil Nadu. However, most staff members of C&D category would be transferred to the Headquarters of the CMFRI, Kochi within the State of Kerala. The decision has been taken in view of the approval of the X Plan Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting held on 20.06.2003 for consolidation of research efforts.

Implementation of Agriculture Coordination Committee's recommendations in Uttaranchal

572. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the recommendations of the Agriculture Coordination Committee in Uttaranchal to focus on agricultural development and policy in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time limit set by Government to implement the recommendations of the committee in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Adoption of Agricultural produce marketing act by States

573. SHRI V. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 2003 has been adopted by the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the State that have fully accepted it;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether proposal of contract farming is also a part of the above Act; and

(e) the current status of the proposal on contract farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Model Act namely, the State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 has been circulated to all the States to guide them in bringing changes in their respective APMC Act to allow direct marketing, contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets. Since agricultural market is a State subject, it is for the State Govern ments to adopt the Model Law as suited to them. The States of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Sikkim, Nagaland, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have made changes intheir respective APMC Act on the lines on the Model Act. The States/UTs of Kerala, Manipur, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep have no APMC Act and hence there is no necessity for adopting the Model Act. The APMC Act of Tamil Nadu already provides for the reforms envisaged in the Model Act. The States/UTs of Haryana, Karnataka, NCT of Delhi, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, UP and Gujarat have partially adopted the provisions of Model Act.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Contact farming is an arrangement to link small farmers to soruce of technology, extension and credit and to assured and profitable market so as to integrate farm production with market. Contract farming has gained importance in the recent times in wake of economic liberalization. Contract farming is in vogue in a number of States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Chhatisgarh, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal. Under the Model Law, registration of sponsoring companies and recording of contract farming agreements has been suggested in order to protect the farmers from unreliable and spurious companies. A Dispute Resolution Mechanism has been suggested to set up near to farmers to quickly settle disputes, if any, arising with the sponsoring company. Farmers, while raising the contracted crop, run the risk of incurring debt and consequent displacement from land in the event of crop failure. Model Law provides indemnity to farmers' land from such displacements.